

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

A. In the specification, please replace paragraph [0013] on page 4 with the following paragraph:

Pillar shield 300 includes, among other things, a base 320 that is generally planar in shape. Projecting out from the base 320 are at least two clips or locks 400 (hereafter simply referred to as locks) that resiliently engage the edge 150 of opening 140 and secure the shield 300 within the opening 140. In some cases, the locks 400 are generally hook shaped leaf springs. At least one of the locks 400 is located at one end of the shield 300, while at least one other of the locks 400 is located at the opposite end of the shield 300. In the embodiment depicted in Figure 3, two locks 400 are located at one end of the shield 300 while a single lock 400 is located at the opposite end of the shield 300. Each of the locks 400 includes a head or end portion 410 that is generally rounded or arcuate in shape, which, as will be discussed below, assists in alignment of the shield.

B. In the specification, please replace paragraph [0014] on page 5 with the following paragraph:

Also projecting out from the base 320 of shield 300 are two or more tensioners 500 that resiliently engage the edge 150 of opening 140 when the shield 300 is inserted into and encloses the opening 140. In some cases, the tensioners 500 are generally hook shaped leaf springs. At least one tensioner 500 is located along one side of the base 320 or edge of the shield 300, while at least one other of the tensioners 500 is located along the opposite side of the base 300. According to the embodiment illustrated in Figure 3, a first tensioner 500 is located along a first side of the base 320, while a second tensioner 500 is located along a second side of the base 320 directly opposite from the first tensioner 500. Alternatively, the two tensioners 500 need not be

located directly opposite each other, although, as will become apparent from the discussion below, this alternate configuration could lead to difficulties with alignment of the shield 300.

C. In the specification, please replace paragraph [0016] on page 6 with the following paragraph:

Also located along each side of base 320 is a stabilizer 600 that resiliently engages the wall 110 when the shield 300 is secured in the opening 140. In some cases, stabilizer 600 is a generally tab shaped leaf spring. In the embodiment illustrated in Figure 3, each stabilizer 600 comprises a pair of protrusions that extend out from the base 320 in a manner such that they tend to "push" shield 300 away from the wall 110 while any forces they generate that run parallel to the base 320 are cancelled out by one another. According to an alternative embodiment, each stabilizer 600 could comprise a single protrusion that extends out from the base 320 of shield 300. However, in this alternative embodiment, the single protrusion would generate an amount of force running parallel to the base 320 that could possibly hinder the alignment process of shield 300 to a certain degree that may or may not be acceptable to the automotive manufacturer. According to another alternative embodiment, more than one stabilizer 600 could be placed along each side of shield 300.